





DAILY COURIER

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AUGUST ELECTION.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR,  
MON. BIRCH MAGOFFIN,  
of Mercer.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR,  
HON. LINN BOYD,  
of McCracken.

AUDITOR,  
GRANT GREENE,  
of Henderson.

TREASURER,  
JAMES H. GARRARD,  
of Franklin.

SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,  
ROBERT RICHARDSON,  
of Kenton.

REGISTER LAND OFFICE,  
THOMAS J. FRAZER,  
of Breathitt.

PRESIDENT BOARD INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS,  
JAMES P. BATES,  
of Barren.

ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
A. J. JAMES,  
of Franklin.

LOUISVILLE:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1859.

Reading Matter on every page.

City Affairs—The Auditor's Report.

How his audit stands, who knows as Heaven?  
Shakespeare.

In ancient times, when the term auditor first came into use, it meant a person who counted the money of a king or a state. Derived from the Latin *audire*, to hear, or to perceive by the ear, it could mean nothing else. In the course of time, however, it came to signify a judge, or an inquisitor appointed by a judge to find out the truth of a disputed matter, and to report thereon. In either case, however, in those good old times, the name was well understood, meaning, and the duties of the office were well known, and were so familiar to the people that the most simple comprehended them.

In modern times, on the contrary, the term auditor, in some localities, at least, is not so easy of comprehension. Since it has been understood to mean an officer commissioned to overhaul the accounts presented to him, and to keep such record as might show the true financial condition of the company, corporation, or government, for which he acts, it is decidedly more difficult to attach any meaning to the term than would be allowable in a dictionary. At least, such is the truth with regard to the Auditor of Louisville, and it is with whom we are concerned for the present. We do not understand him, and the duties of the office there are so familiar to the people that the most simple comprehended them.

We have on more occasions than one, during the last year, called for an Auditor's report, and urged upon our city fathers and our Mayor the absolute necessity of having one. At last we have a report; and it is now before us nearly a year after the time at which we should have had it. It is a neat printed volume of sixteen pages, and looks well enough on the outside. Its title page reads "Annual Report of the Auditor of the City of Louisville, for the fiscal year ending March 10th, 1858." Perhaps we ought to be satisfied with getting the document even at this late date, and should console ourselves with the adage, "better late than never." We shall, therefore, complain to no more of the late hour of the coming of our pamphlet, but proceed to note a portion of its contents.

The pamphlet before us does not come up to our idea of an Auditor's report. As an official document of that character, it is a failure. It does not set forth the financial condition of the city as it should, and we venture to say that no one can rise from its perusal with a much better knowledge of our municipal affairs than he had before. The general accounts do not agree with the specific, and there are numerous errors of too gross a nature to be made by an accurate and reliable accountant. We might add many examples in support of what we have said, but the following will suffice.

In statement No. 2 the Auditor shows that the total receipts of the city, (outstanding warrants and cash in the treasury excepted,) from all sources, for the year ending March 10, 1858, amounted to \$545,339.75. This statement is made in the general account of receipts, and if it be true, it ought to correspond with the sum of the receipts as set forth in the individual or specific accounts to which they are carried. It does not correspond, however, as any one will see who will take the trouble to compare them. The receipts, when carried from the general to the specific accounts by the Auditor, stand as follows:

For the Sinking Fund, \$105,518.43  
" Water Tax, 29,305.50  
" " " " 199,828.25  
" " " " 100,000.00  
" City proper and Schools, 200,994.95  
Total, \$545,339.75

It will be seen at once that there is a considerable discrepancy. Subtract the receipts in the general account from those in the different specific accounts, as shown by the Auditor, and the difference is \$48,805.47. This is quite a considerable variance in the opinion of those who are not accustomed to handle the sums of money. We do not, as said before, understand this mode of auditing accounts, and if it is right, we neither know the meaning of Auditor, nor comprehend the duties of the office.

Again: the Auditor, in his general account of expenditures, also numbered 2 in his report, shows that the total expenditures (warrants and cash in the treasury excepted,) for the fiscal year ending March 10th, 1858, amounted to \$545,339.75. The same rule we applied to the receipts should hold good with regard to the disbursements; and if so, the expenditures enumerated in the general account should correspond with the sum of those in the several specific accounts. This discrepancy, however, is very great, as will be seen by comparing the following specific disbursements with the general:

For Sinking Fund, \$105,518.43  
For Water Tax, 29,305.50  
For Fire and Marine Insurance, 25,000.00  
For City proper and Schools, 200,994.95  
Total, \$545,339.75

Again: it will be seen that the accounts in the figures of the Auditor all balance very handsomely. The general receipt account balances the general expenditure account; and if this be the work of an auditor, properly understood, there are many who do not comprehend the functions of the office.

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After stating these huge errors, we might enumerate some small ones to show that our Auditor can err in small matters as well as great ones. For instance, in footing up the accounts of receipts from all sources, the sum is put down at \$545,339.75, when it should be \$546,000.00; and in footing up the account of expenditures for all purposes, the sum is put down at \$545,339.75, when it should be \$546,000.00. This is to say, the Auditor, according to his own figures, received \$660 more than he actually received, and paid out \$660 less than his general account shows, and paid out \$1,992.58 less than his general account of disbursements shows that he expended. The two sums added together make \$4,654.58, which, though small compared with the huge mistakes before named, is yet too considerable a discrepancy for an accurate and reliable keeper of the public accounts.

We might go on and enumerate other errors in this report, for it is full of them, but we have already pointed out enough to divert it of the character of a reliable official document. We should be glad to see these mistakes explained and corrected. They look very bad in an Auditor's report, which cannot claim to have been gotten up hurriedly, from the fact that it only came to the public months after it should have appeared. It was in hand long enough to have come to the public a perfect thing—a report made up of a general account of receipts and expenditures and individual accounts of everything for which money was collected and paid out, all corresponding with one another and showing a perfect union in part and in detail. Such a report would show what the city owns and what she owes, what her revenues and what her expenditures, when the debts due her fall due, and when what she owes must be paid, and, in few words, would present an exhibit in general and in detail of every transaction of the city through her whole year, so that, in one hour, looking over it could learn all about the financial condition of the city. The report before us is not such a document as we shall show hereafter, if we have not already made it clear to our readers.

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NOTICES.

After stating these huge errors, we might enumerate some small ones to show that our Auditor can err in small matters as well as great ones. For instance, in footing up the accounts of receipts from all sources, the sum is put down at \$545,339.75, when it should be \$546,000.00; and in footing up the account of expenditures for all purposes, the sum is put down at \$545,339.75, when it should be \$546,000.00. This is to say, the Auditor, according to his own figures, received \$660 more than he actually received, and paid out \$660 less than his general account shows, and paid out \$1,992.58 less than his general account of disbursements shows that he expended. The two sums added together make \$4,654.58, which, though small compared with the huge mistakes before named, is yet too considerable a discrepancy for an accurate and reliable keeper of the public accounts.

We might go on and enumerate other errors in this report, for it is full of them, but we have already pointed out enough to divert it of the character of a reliable official document. We should be glad to see these mistakes explained and corrected. They look very bad in an Auditor's report, which cannot claim to have been gotten up hurriedly, from the fact that it only came to the public months after it should have appeared. It was in hand long enough to have come to the public a perfect thing—a report made up of a general account of receipts and expenditures and individual accounts of everything for which money was collected and paid out, all corresponding with one another and showing a perfect union in part and in detail. Such a report would show what the city owns and what she owes, what her revenues and what her expenditures, when the debts due her fall due, and when what she owes must be paid, and, in few words, would present an exhibit in general and in detail







